



Along the Blue River in Oklahoma. Photo by Richard Jaeger, March 2026.



April 2026

The Rocky Mountain Federation News



The official publication of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. The RMFMS is a regional member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. Email receipt of the *RMF News* is a privilege of membership in the RMFMS, and it cannot be exchanged by the editor for individual club newsletters from other regional federations. Accessible to the public on www.rmfmts.org.

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Information for the **April** issue is due to
LJGRALG@aol.com by **March 15**.

President's Message*Jim Gray, RMFMS President*

The recent lunar eclipse was visible from my porch and was spectacular. It reminds me, again, how amazing earth and the universe are and what things we can find and enjoy. I have been cutting quite a bit of rock lately and never get over the diversity!

The joint AFMS and Midwest Federation convention is coming together, and the convention packet is available on the www.amfed.org website. It will be in St. Charles, Illinois and promises to be an outstanding event! The host club, Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association, is working hard to put together a memorable gem and mineral show. I hope many of you will take the time to attend the event May 23–24, 2026 at the Kane County Fairgrounds, 525 S Randall Rd, St Charles, Illinois.

This will be a busy spring-early summer for me as I will surely feel like I just get back from Illinois and be headed to Tulsa, Oklahoma for the annual RMFMS convention! Be sure to keep an eye on the www.rmfmts.org website for this convention packet. I think it is to become available late April-early May. The convention dates will be July 9-12, 2026. The annual RMFMS meetings are very important for conducting the business of our federation, recognizing outstanding members for their contributions to websites and newsletters, awarding scholarships to college students, and much more. Each club has two votes at the annual delegates meeting, and it is very important to either send one or two delegates OR select a proxy for the votes. The proxy can be any RMFMS-affiliated club member, including the RMFMS State Director, a member in another club, or even someone from another state. Don't wait until the last minute to think about who your club's delegate(s) or proxy may be!

Speaking of shows, be sure to send your show flyers to Tyler, the RMFMS webmaster, to be put on the www.RMFMS.org website!

This is a good place to advertise and is a benefit of being an RMFMS member club. If you have any other articles, please be sure and send them to Tyler. Send those to webmaster@rmfmts.org

You can also post on the RMFMS Facebook page.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the conventions and other gem and mineral shows at which I am a vendor in Utah, Wyoming, and Billings, Montana. If we have not yet met, be sure to come up and introduce yourself!

Until next time, Jim

Secretary's Report

Liz Thomas, RMFMS Secretary

Greetings from your RMFMS Secretary. Here in Oklahoma, we are going from shorts to parkas in a days' time. But I think it is finally through that last brush of winter for us. At least my plants hope so and me too.

As you all know, the RMFMS Convention is coming up very soon. It is being held here in Tulsa, Oklahoma and sponsored by my home rock club, Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society. We are gearing up to have a fantastic show and field trips for all of you.

I will be sending out the packets for the convention in mid-May. Packets will have all the information about the host hotel, the meeting times and places, the banquet, the editor's breakfast, competitive cases, and much more.

To complete the packets, **I need the reports from all the Officers, State Directors, and Committee Chairs.** These reports let the federation know what you have done this past year within your duties of the office you hold. Below is the list of people who need to turn in reports to me as soon as possible. (The sooner I get all the reports the sooner I can get the packets out.)

2025 Reports:

- President - Jim Gray
- Vice President - Steve Kaminski
- Secretary - Liz Thomas
- Treasurer - Gene Maggard
- Historian - Cinda Kunkler
- Past President 1 - Bob Regner
- Past President 2 - Richard Jaeger
- AZ/NV State Director - Jodi Brewster
- CO State Director - Steve Bohannon, MD
- KS State Director - Larry Beck
- NM/TX State Director - Donna Regner
- ND/SD/NE State Director - Lori Loomis
- OK/AR State Director - Roberta Wagle
- UT State Director - Daniel Ahlemann
- WY State Director - Leane Gray

- ACROY - Chris Whitney-Smith
- All American Club Contest - Roberta Wagle
- BEAC - Linda Jaeger
- Boundaries - DeLane Cox
- Convention - Liz Thomas
- Credentials - Roberta Wagle
- Directory - Lori Loomis
- Editor of Newsletter - Linda Jaeger
- Finance - Wayne Cox
- Fluorescent Tech - Brian Walko
- Fossil Tech - Mike Nelson
- Gold Pan Award - Richard Jaeger
- Insurance - Gene Maggard
- International Relations - Mike Nelson
- Juniors Program - Michelle Cauley
- Lapidary Tech - vacant
- Long Range Planning - Liz Thomas, Richard Jaeger, Judy Beck
- Mineralogical Tech - Mike Nelson
- Name Badges - Richard Jaeger
- New Programs Contest - Gene Maggard
- Nominating - Jim Gray, Liz Thomas, Bob Regner
- AZ PLAC - Chuck Greenhawt
- CO PLAC - vacant
- KS PLAC - Mike Nelson
- NM/TX PLAC - vacant
- OK/AR PLAC - vacant
- ND/SD/NE PLAC - Lori Loomis
- UT/NV PLAC - vacant
- WY PLAC - Greg Jones
- Program Library - Gene & Peggy Maggard
- Public Relations - DeLane Cox
- Ribbons - Jenelle Hopkins
- Safety - Jodi Brewster
- Scholarship - Richard Jaeger
- Stationary/Trophies - Ben Thomas



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Secretary's Report— continued from page 3

- Supplies - Roberta Wagle
 - Uniform Rules - Lee Whitebay, Leon Reeder, Les Presmyk
 - Webmaster - Tuler Jacobson
 - Website Contest - Leane Gray
- Liz Thomas,
RMFMS Secretary
<mygemsrock at gmail.com>

Club Corner: White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club

Donna Pollard, WMGMC President



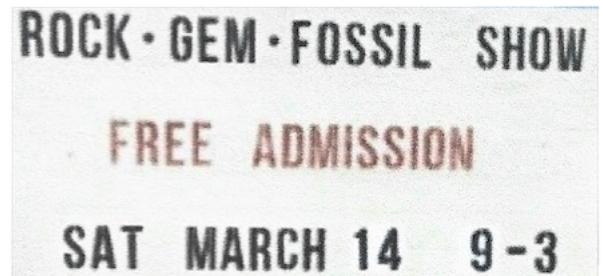
This busy year is flying by. Already March, and I still see Christmas decorations in some locations. Our club timeline has the same busy schedule. The STEM Fair (science, technology, engineering and math) was March 1. Members of our club were judges and brought mineral specimens to display. It was a busy, well-attended

event, with many families, children, adults, and other presenters who stopped to admire our collection.

Still, the busy season keeps going. March 14 is our show and sale at the Mellon Center. March 21-22 is the field trip to New Mexico. April, May, and June provide the planning and implementation time for our big event of the year, the annual Gem and Mineral Show. It is scheduled for July 10-12 at the Elks Lodge in Show Low, Arizona. Members help in the children's area, the club's version of silent auction, the front desk, or in the quiet security of just being a presence.



Above: STEM Fair Display, WMGMC, March 1, 2026.



Another Brief Intermission for Levity

What do you call a dinosaur car accident?

A tyrannosaurus wreck!

What do you call a dinosaur that never gives up?

Try-try-ceratops!

Scientists discovered a new dinosaur that is very intelligent. *It's called a thesaurus.*

What do you call a group of dinosaurs that sing?

A tyranno-chorus!

From <https://www.rd.com/article/dinosaur-jokes/>

AFMS Endowment Fund

Richard Jaeger, RMFMS Chair



This is a raffle drawing with tickets being sold at \$5 each or five tickets for \$20. The drawing will be held at the MWF/AFMS Convention in St. Charles, Illinois on May 23-24, 2026. People from around the American Federation

donate prizes for the raffle – they may be jewelry, crystals, minerals, fossils, books, or other items, the value of which range generally from \$75 to \$200. The drawing is handled so that there is at least one winner from each of the seven regional federations; last year we had two winners from the Rocky Mountain Federation.

This is a major way to financially support the American Federation's efforts on behalf of our hobby. Currently the funds go towards the Junior Rockhound Program, Judges Training, and preparing Programs for distribution to Regional Federations, which can be used by individual clubs. Over \$5,000 was raised last year.

Cheryl requests that the checks be sent to the regional chairs so that we may issue tickets and have a record of who has entered. Checks should be made payable to the "AFMS

Endowment Fund." We then forward those checks to the AFMS Treasurer. I will fill out the proper number of tickets for each contribution, send the stubs to the donating individual, and get the tickets to the MWF/AFMS Show in St. Charles in May to be put into the RMFMS bag. There will be at least one general prize ticket, maybe two or three, drawn from each of the bags for the seven regional federations. After that, all tickets will be dumped into one bag, and further drawings will take place until all the prizes have been awarded.

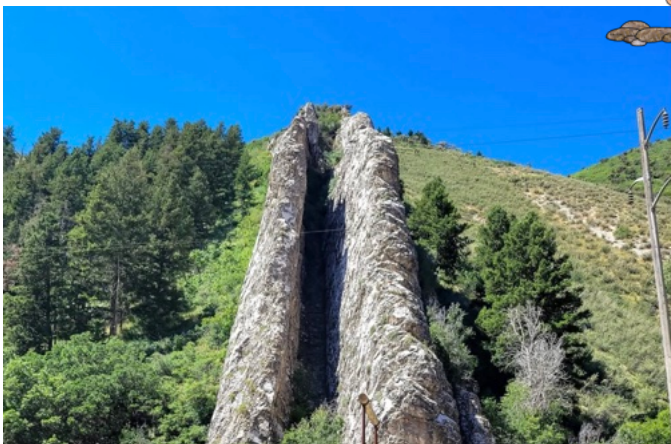
I hope many of you will participate and be winners. You need not be present to win. **I am also happy to accept any donated prizes for the raffle, or you can send them directly to Cheryl Neary.**

Cheryl's address is: **42 Jefferson Ave., Patchogue, NY 11772.**

Please purchase some tickets! If you would like to donate a prize, please donate soon.

My contact information is:

Richard D. Jaeger
3515 E 88th St
Tulsa, OK 74137-2602
918.481.0249
RjgrSci@aol.com



Where in the RMFMS is Rocky?

- South Dakota?
- Texas?
- Utah?

Clipart at top by Phillip Martin.
CC BY NC ND 3.0.



Photo at left by Kevin Hehl, CC BY-NC-ND 4.0..

Answers on page 20.

Johannsenite and Nickle & Dime Novels

Mike Nelson, csrockguy@yahoo.com, Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society

Two of my favorite classes in grad school were optical mineralogy and optical petrography. As the names imply, during the first semester we used petrographic microscopes to identify minerals as seen in thin sections. I have noted previously that I was never a stellar student in undergraduate mineralogy class, mostly due to crystallography. I just had, and still do, problems with visualizing and describing three dimensional objects. Systems, Classes, Space Groups, symmetry, etc. just fogged up my brain. I was about ready to switch to another major, which would have been my fourth, when the crystallography section ended and we moved on to the physical and understanding aspects of minerals. Of course, in the spring semester I hit structural geology and stereograms/stereonet and about went bananas. Who thought up these objects of torture? Why was I being punished when all I wanted to do was hunt for fossils? Somehow, I advanced in the curriculum to "fun" courses like geomorphology, sedimentary geology, and the paleo sequence.

I was sort of terrified in moving on to grad school and finding out that the optical sequence was required for graduation. Then something happened—I loved the classes, the identification of minerals in the fall and following that with petrography in the spring semester, where we learned how to better understand igneous and metamorphic rocks via examinations of thin sections. My life became much better and certainly more exciting.

At any rate, our instructor owned several professional books that were available for use and stored in the lab. For some reason one particular go-to reference stood out in my mind: *Petrography of the Igneous Rocks* by Albert Johannsen, a Professor at the University of Chicago. Although Johannsen was no longer living in the mid-1960s, in

those days I was awed by anyone teaching at Chicago, and certainly the Field Museum paleontologists who wandered around western South Dakota. Then there was the WOW factor, a commemorative plaque on campus stating: On December 2, 1942 man achieved here the first self-sustaining chain reaction and thereby initiated the controlled release of nuclear energy. The first self-sustaining nuclear chain reactor, an "atomic pile" officially dubbed CP-1 (Chicago Pile-1), operated under the stands of the former football stadium, Stagg Field. This pile of bricks and timbers was able to control nuclear fission. And so, the race was on and never stopped.

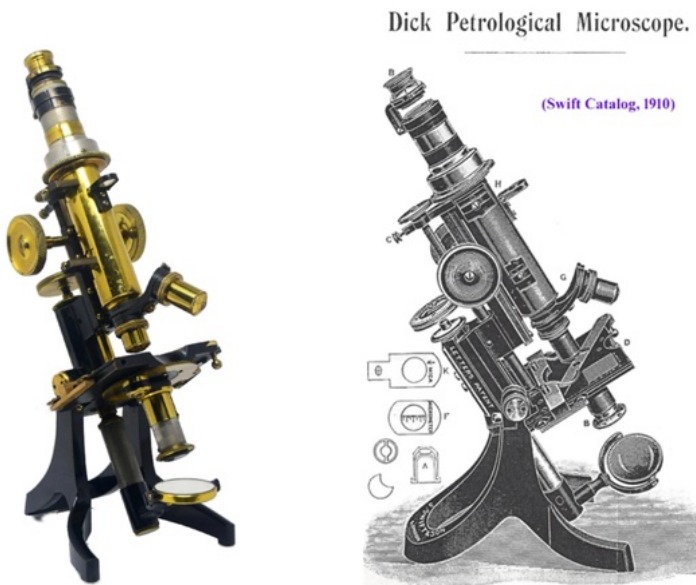


But the most remarkable item, at least in my young mind, was that Johannsen's tome consisted of several volumes, four or five at least. My just developing mind wondered how could one person write "so much"? As MinDat stated: "He established quantitative definitions of rock analysis and rock classifications as well as redesigning the petrographic microscope. His descriptive multi-volume *Petrography of the Igneous Rocks* is a classic in petrography. The scholarly opus has lasted through several editions, thousands of students, and even today can be located on web sites of used book sellers. Although numerous later authors have published multiple books on the classification and description of igneous rocks, Johannsen's works seem to be the father that started it all. Fortunately, today's authors have much more information supplied by modern electronic gizmos.

continued on page 7

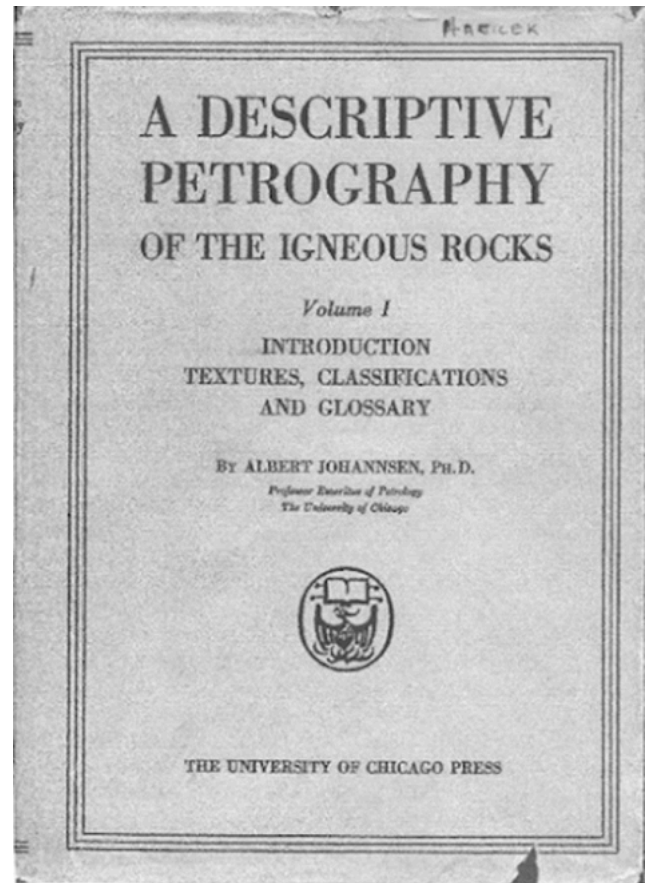
Johannsenite— continued from page 6

Johannsen's original research appeared in over 40 scientific papers and books, but his early contributions were papers dealing with improvements of the petrographic microscope and how to identify minerals using a pet scope: *Determination of Rock-Forming Minerals* (1908), *Manual of Petrographic Methods* (1918), and *Essentials for the Microscopic Determination of Rock-Forming Minerals and Rocks in Thin Section* (1922).



Above left: J. Swift & Son, Dick Model Petrographic Microscope, 1891. **Above right:** J. Swift & Son, Dick "New" Model Petrographic Microscope, 1910.

Johannsen, in his *Manual of Petrographic Methods*, described a number of different pet scopes and featured the Newer Dick Model shown above right. Goren (date unknown; see references) stated that the first scope capable of "quantitative scientific work was undoubtedly the petrographic microscope by AB Dick," whose principle he described in 1889 and which was conducted in 1891 in the catalogs of the company Swift & Son (color photo above left courtesy of Dr. Yuval Goren). The "Newer Dick Model" was illustrated in the 1910 Swift catalog. I was unable to find out if Johannsen used a Dick



Model scope; however, since he was an admirer of German scholarship I would bet on a Leitz!

Johannsen retired in 1937 (b. 1871), and the remaining years of his life were spent in nonscientific pursuits. Evidently, he had an interest in the nickel and dime novels of the late 19th century. Actually, it was more than just "an interest" since he wrote two volumes of the well respected *The House of Beadle and Adams and Its Nickel and Dime Novels* (1950). In reading this sentence I became completely confused about who/what was Beadle and Adams. OK, the following information comes from Registry.clir.org/projects/2028/.

By 1864, Beadle & Adams had sold more than five million dime novels, making them one of the most successful publishers in the country.

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Johannsenite— continued from page 7

The secret to this success was undercutting rival publishers by selling novels for a dime, which was significantly lower than the going rate of a dollar. This was achieved by using inexpensive paper, exploiting cheaper postage rates for periodicals, and reprinting previously published works. Although their popularity waned towards the end of the century, they were among the most significant and innovative publishers of their time, single-handedly responsible for popularizing the dime novel format and playing an important role in the evolution of American popular fiction. Johannsen's novel, *The House of Beadle and Adams and Its Nickel and Dime Novels* (1950), was a landmark work in the study of 19th century popular literature and publishing.

While working on his book, Johannsen amassed one of the largest private collections of dime novels and story papers in the United States, which was purchased by Northern Illinois University in 1967. This collection contains 6,593 publications issued by Beadle and Adams between 1852 and 1897. Johannsen's *The House of Beadle and Adams and their Nickel and Dime Novels* (1950), is one of the most significant works of dime novel scholarship and bibliography of the 20th century.

In 1932 W. T. Schaller, speaking at the December meeting of the Mineralogical Society of America, described a new manganese pyroxene that he was naming **johannsenite** "in honor of Professor Albert Johannsen of the University of Chicago." Because Schaller wanted to study additional specimens that were showing up from several new localities, the official publication date of the mineral name did not happen until 1938 with the publication of W.T. Schaller, *Johannsenite, a new manganese*

pyroxene: American Mineralogist, 23 (9) 575-582. To further confuse the issue, Schaller based his description on material from Tetela de Ocampo, Puebla, Mexico, and nine plus other locales. MinDat lists two localities in Italy and Franklin, New Jersey, as the Co-Type Localities. Lauf (2010) believes the locality at Puebla, Mexico, has the strongest claim for the Type Locality. Interestingly, rockhounds collecting in the western U.S. are partial to getting specimens of johannsenite from the Iron Cap Mine in the well-known Aravaipa Mining District, Graham County, Arizona.



Above: Crystals of elongate "pyroxene-like" crystals of johannsenite. Width FOV ~4.5mm. **Below left:** Mass of slender, acicular crystals of johannsenite. Width FOV ~7mm. **Below right:** Johannsenite, pyroxene-like crystals with white nekoite. Width FOV ~5mm.



The Iron Cap Mine is a former surface and underground Pb-Zn-Ag-Cu-Au-Fluorspar mine where the major ores were sphalerite (zinc) and galena (lead). Mineralization is found in vein deposits hosted in the Horquilla Formation (Pennsylvanian) and the Pinkard Formation (Cretaceous).

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Johannsenite— continued from page 8

Some ore veins occur in faults between formations while others are found wholly in the limestone beds. The mine area also includes numerous intrusive veins of Cretaceous and Tertiary age cutting across Paleozoic rocks (Simons and Munson, 196).

Johannsenite is a somewhat uncommon calcium manganese silicate $[\text{CaMnSi}_2\text{O}_6]$, sometimes containing iron, and is the dominant pyroxene from the Iron Cap Mine. The physical properties of johannsenite vary: color ranges from brown to black to gray to green to light blue to yellow to violet and others; it is translucent to transparent; the habit is massive to acicular needles to radiating aggregates to splintery; the luster varies from greasy to vitreous and the hardness is 6 (Mohs), although the acicular needle masses break apart easily. It usually forms in contact metamorphic zones associated with skarns. Johannsenite in my specimens is composed of massive green prismatic crystals or cleavage fragments (angles of 87° and 93° typical of pyroxenes). A second specimen of johannsenite from the Iron Cap has very dark green patches of acicular crystals.

Johannsenite is in solid solution with hedenbergite when the iron completely replaces the manganese $[\text{CaFeSi}_2\text{O}_6]$ and with diopside as magnesium replaces the manganese $[\text{CaMgSi}_2\text{O}_6]$. In a process that somewhat confuses me, johannsenite alters to pink rhodonite (see Livi and Verblen, 1992, for a detailed report on this process.). The Iron Cap has produced hedenbergite associated with johannsenite but not diopside.

Bustamite $[\text{CaMnSi}_2\text{O}_6]$ is the high temperature polymorph of johannsenite and usually forms where manganese-rich ore bodies are subjected to metamorphism/metasomatism, often in skarns. The temperature break is ~830 degrees C. Bustamite is associated with johannsenite at the Franklin Mine in New Jersey but not at the Iron Cap.



Above & Below: Crystals of manganbabingtonite with acicular crystals of johannsenite. Collected at Iron Cap Mine. Length of left largest crystal ~3mm



continued on page 10



Left & right: Clear to white to reddish brown bustamite collected from the Langban ore body, Varmland, Sweden. Width FOV both photos ~5mm.

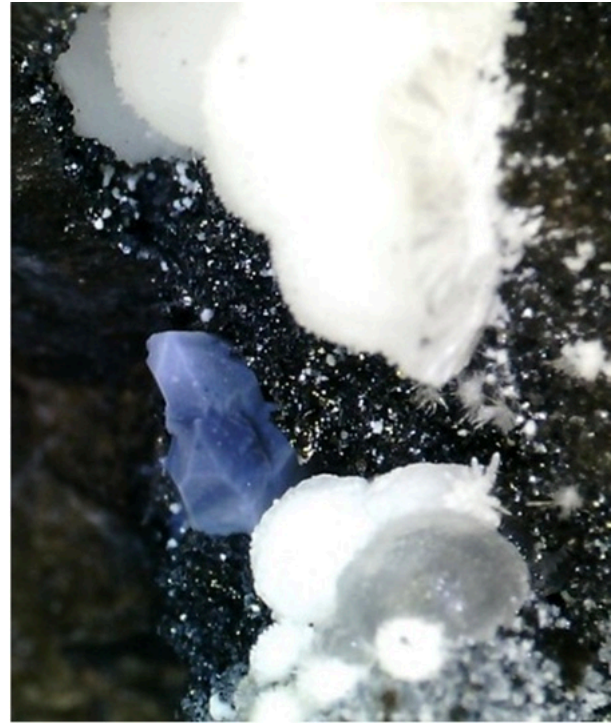


Johannsenite— continued from page 9

Finally, The Iron Cap Mine is also known for: 1) the magnificent crystals of manganbabingtonite, a rare Ca-Mn-Fe silicate $[\text{Ca}_2\text{Mn}_2+\text{Fe}_3+\text{Si}_5\text{O}_{14}(\text{OH})]$ that is the manganese dominant analogue of babingtonite; and 2) nekoite, a rare, white, hydrated, calcium silicate $[\text{Ca}_3\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{15} \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}]$ that was originally confused with the “zeolite look-a-like,” okenite. **Nekoite** is an anagram of **okenite**!



Above: Nekoite clusters with unknown colored crystal.
Width FOV ~3 mm.



Above: Nekoite clusters with unknown colored crystal.
Width FOV ~3 mm.

References Cited:

- Goren, Yuval, www.microscopehistory.com; Retrieved December 2025.
- Lauf, R.J., 2009, Collectors Guide to the Pyroxene Group: Schiffer Publishing, The Limited.
- Simons, F. S. and E. Munson, 1963, Johannsenite from the Aravaipa mining district, Arizona: American Mineralogist, Vol. 48, No. 9-10.
- Schaller, Waldemar T. 1938, Johannsenite, a new manganese pyroxene: American Mineralogist, Vol. 23, No. 9.

Of Interest (taken from a Memorial written by F.F. Pettijohn).

Johannsen was a Man of Letters and a Polymath.

Johannsen received a B.S. degree in architecture from the University of Illinois in 1894.

He returned to school and received a B.S. in geology from the University of Utah in 1898. He

then went to the Johns Hopkins University where he received his Ph.D. in petrography in 1903.

Johannsen was pre-eminent in the field of microscopical petrography. He probably was, in a sense, the greatest and last of the American school of petrographers.

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Johannsenite— continued from page 9

He is best known for his translation of Weinschenk's "Fundamental Principles of Petrology."

His original contributions appeared in some 40 papers in the technical journals. Chief of these is his quantitative classification of the igneous rocks.

He set a standard of excellence that puts most contemporary scholarship to shame. In a sense Johannsen's scholarship was a kind of literary scholarship.

He regarded a good rock description as something of permanent value

Johannsen was a collector at heart. At the time of his retirement, he left a superb collection of nearly 5,000 rock specimens at the University of Chicago. For most of these he had thin sections.

Johannsen's collecting extended to many fields outside of geology including postage stamps, commemorative half dollars, U. S. vice presidential autographs, first editions of Charles Dickens' works including the MEMORIALS 457, famous Phiz illustrations, and dime novels

He was an accomplished artist and when a student in Utah he drew the fashion plates for the Salt Lake City Herald.

He was also skilled in oil painting. He was a photographer of merit and a Leica enthusiast long before 35 mm cameras became popular.

This cultural heritage explains to some degree Johannsen's admiration of the best in German scholarship, his own mastery of German, and his unsurpassed works in the "Handbuch" tradition.

Miscellaneous

In 1967 many Ph.D. granting institutions believed that one could not be a geology scholar without understanding and reading German. Therefore, I spent a year trying (without high success) to read German and pass the "reading test." I passed it. Wow. Next came French, and a pass.

I am thankful to Professor Yuval Goren for allowing use of his microscope photo taken from his tome. This web site, www.microscopehistory.com, is an amazing and brilliant piece of work and readers should take a good look at this comprehensive history of microscopes.



Where in the RMFMS is Rocky?

- South Dakota?
- Texas?
- Utah?

Clipart at top by Phillip Martin.
CC BY-SA 2.0.

Photo left, Public Domain



Answers on page 20.



Quick Tips for Editors – The Photo Collage

Linda Jaeger, RMFMS BEAC & Editor

Know any good story-tellers? If you use your phone for taking pictures, that story-teller could be you! Creating a photo collage becomes a matter of organizing your photos to **tell a story or support an article in an eye-pleasing fashion.**

Did you know that 80% of the population are visual learners? According to the food industry, we even “eat with our eyes first.” With more newsletters available in digital format, using photos has become easier. It also makes newsletters more readable — and more people will read them!

What comes first? The story or the photo(s)? You can make your photo collage from either direction.

Last year’s Photo Collage winner in the RMFMS Bulletin Editors Contest was a tribute to a long-time member of the Denver Gem and Mineral Guild. Author Beth Simmons used photos of this member over her years of service and participation in club activities. The story was there first. Then Beth gathered and organized the photos to make one more memory in a tribute to Maxine Sheel.

Maybe you have a photo that already has a story to be told. At the Breakfast with Editors and Webmasters in Grand Junction, Colorado last year, I got a photo of the awards table full of ribbons and trophies from a unique perspective. **See photo, left.** All I had to do was write the article to go with the photo. This single photo would be a “Photo Collage” that plays a supporting role for the article. In this case the photo came first, then the story.

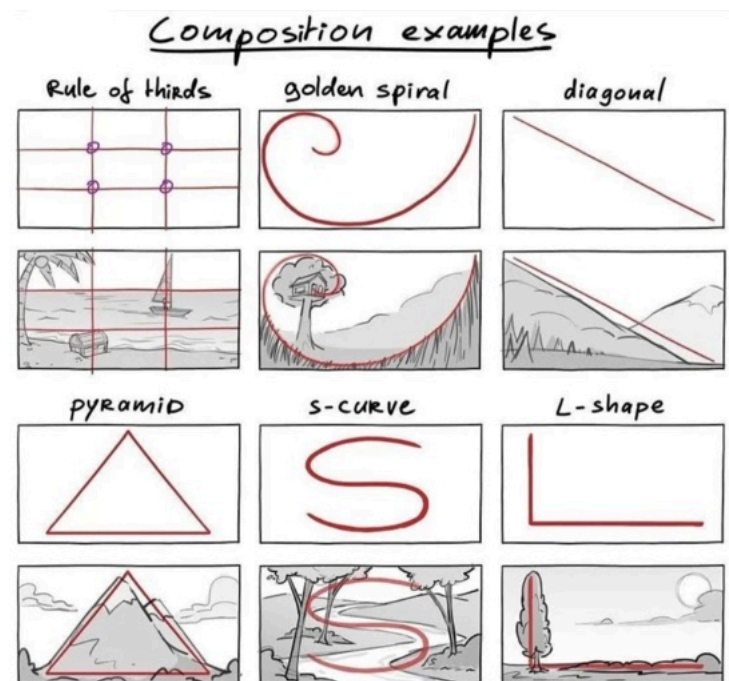


Photo from Linda Jaeger

How do you choose your photo(s)? According to the Guidelines for Features in the RMFMS Editors Contest Guidelines, judging criteria include:

- visual depiction of a club activity or support for a written feature
- originality
- focus
- sharpness
- contrast
- lighting
- composition
- layout

Let’s look at **composition**. This has to do with how things in the photo are arranged. You want to “create visual interest, guide the viewer’s eye, and evoke emotions.” [From Google’s AI Overview]



Graphic from Nik Rave in the **Beginners Photography Group** on FaceBook.

Notice the composition of my photo at left is in the “L-shape.” It creates a visual “WOW” to see how many awards our editors/authors/artists won.

continued on page 13

Quick Tips, Photo Collage— continued from page 12

What about **layout** on your page? It makes sense to place photos within an article/feature close to where that particular visual interest is mentioned. Captions are helpful. I suspect that most of us type and insert photos as we go.

It may be that all your photo collage needs is a page title and a caption for each photo. An example of this kind of layout is the **"Convention Clips in Photos"** collage that was in the October 2025 *RMF News*. Each photo has a caption identifying the activity. Photos are arranged on the page with enough white space to create separation and a little relief for the eyes. See the screenshot below.

Convention Clips in Photos

From Roberta Wagle & Linda Jaeger



Above: Executive Committee meeting at GJGMC clubhouse.

Right: Celebrating October birthdays: Judy Beck, Ben Thomas, Bob Regner, Richard Jaeger (80), Jim Gray.



Above: JC Moore (AFMS President) installs the 2025-26 RMFMS Officers who were present: Jim Gray-P, Steve Kaminsky-VP, Jodi Brewster-AZ/NV Director, Larry Beck-KS Director, Liz Thomas-Sec, Daniel Ahlemann-UT Director, Lori Loomis-ND/SD/NE Director



Above: Union Station in Grand Junction, near a great breakfast place called "Pufferbelly's."



Above: Kimberly Perry receives competitive case trophy from Jim Gray & Ben Thomas.

Above Right: Solomon Wills receives Junior award from Liz Thomas & Jim Gray.



Above: RMFMS Scholarship recipients, Tyler Wickland and Amy Vovopyanov, University of Colorado. They are holding the plaque given to Dr. Kevin Mahan, Scholarship honoree, who was unable to attend. Dr. Mahan chose the recipients.

If you want to try something a little fancier or more complex, there are free software apps you can use to create beautiful, fun, eye-popping layouts.

The only app I have ever used is a free one called PicCollage. It was required to make a presentation for a course I was taking, and I found it very easy to use. According to Google, the best free app collage makers for 2026 are:

- PhotoGrid
- Canva
- PicCollage
- Picsart
- Collageable

Others listed elsewhere are:

- BeFunky
- Pixlr
- FotoJet
- Adobe Express

Best Free collage apps for iPhone:

- PhotoGrid
- PicCollage
- Canva
- PicMerger (use this one to stitch photos together)

Just so you know: RMFMS is the only federation that has a Photo Collage category in the Bulletin Editors contest.

Consider that since a large majority of us learn visually, communicating a story through a Photo Collage is a great way to reach your audience.

Why not give it a try? Your editor and club members will probably be delighted!

Federation Week Partnership – William Holland School of Lapidary Arts

Letter from Kristine Robertson, Executive Director, William Holland School of Lapidary Arts

I wanted to reach out and share an opportunity for us to work together in a way that supports lapidary education for both your members and our students.

William Holland was founded in 1983 by members of the SFMS (Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies), and that connection has always meant a great deal to us. We are a nonprofit school dedicated to preserving and promoting the arts of lapidary and jewelry making. Our instructors volunteer their time, and many of our buildings were built through the hard work and generosity of federation members. The school truly grew from that spirit of shared purpose and community.

For many years, one week each year was set aside especially for SFMS Federation members as a way to celebrate that relationship. Since COVID, a lot has changed, and we have all had to think a little differently. With SFMS taking a break from its dedicated week, we see a great opportunity to open Federation Week to all seven federation regions instead of limiting it to the Southeast.

Federation Week has always been a special time at William Holland. It brings together people who love rocks, gems, jewelry, and learning. There are classes, social activities, and plenty of time to connect with others who share the same interests. We believe this could be a wonderful way to bring federation members together from across the country while also strengthening the mission we all care about.

We have formed a committee to begin planning for this year's Federation Week, and it will be open to all federation members. I would love the chance to talk with you about how your organization might be involved. Our hope is to offer discounted tuition during that week and donate a portion of the proceeds back to your organization or the regional federations as a fundraiser to help support future lapidary education. As this grows, we would also love to include instructors and speakers from all regions. **Traditionally, this week is held during the first full week of June.**

I am available all next week (letter received March 18) and would be glad to set up a time to talk. I would love to share more details and hear your thoughts. I would also like to include **Jerri Heer** in the conversation. She is one of our instructors, a longtime member and officer of the SFMS, and is now involved with the Midwest federation as well.

Please CLICK <https://lapidaryschool.org/register/> and filter "Federation Classes" under our "Category" filter to take a look at the 2026 William Holland Federation Week we have scheduled. We would be grateful for your help in sharing it with your members.

Warm regards,

Kristine M. Robertson, Executive Director, William Holland School of Lapidary Arts

See flyer on next page

William Holland School of Lapidary Arts — continued from page 14



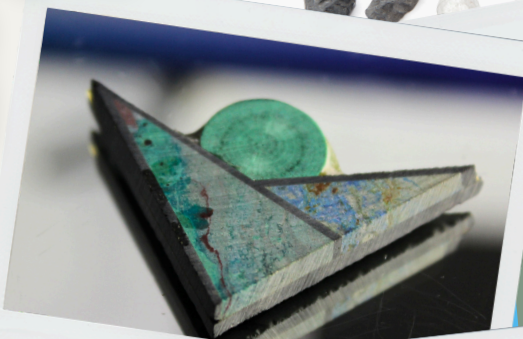
JOIN US FOR

WH FEDERATION WEEK - 2026



JUNE 7TH-12TH









Join us for WH Federation Week at William Holland, where members from all gem and mineral federations are warmly invited to come together for a week of classes, friendship, creativity, and shared love of the lapidary arts.

[LEARN MORE](https://www.lapidaryschool.org)



230 Lapidary Lane, Young Haris, GA
www.lapidaryschool.org



Where in the RMFMS is Rocky?

- South Dakota?
- Texas?
- Utah?

Clipart at top by Phillip Martin. CC BY NC ND 3.0.

Photo left, CC0 1.0



Answers on page 20.

From Scottish Granite to Olympic Glory: The Journey of a Curling Stone

Susan Burch, SCFMS Editor & BEAC



When the Winter Olympics wrapped up this February, most of the headlines focused on the high-speed drama of skiing, skating, and snowboarding. But tucked among the marquee events was a sport built on precision rather than speed — curling. More than a hundred athletes from around the world stepped onto the ice with one essential tool: a 44-pound polished block of granite that had traveled farther than many of the competitors themselves.

A Sport born on Frozen Scottish Waters—Curling's roots reach back more than five centuries. The earliest known stone is dated 1511, and by the mid-1500s, Scottish monks were already sliding rocks across frozen lochs in friendly competition. The sport spread through Europe, and by the 1700s, clubs began forming across Scotland. Still, it wasn't until 1838 that the first standardized rules were written.

Scottish emigrants carried the game abroad, introducing it to Canada, the United States, and parts of Europe. By 1959, the first world championship was held. Curling's global profile surged after it became an official Olympic medal sport in 1998, drawing new fans to its mix of strategy, finesse, and teamwork.

How the stones evolved—The earliest curling stones were simply rounded fieldstones fitted with iron handles. As the sport matured, so did the equipment. By the mid-1800s, Scottish manufacturers were producing stones with consistent shapes and smooth, flat bases — a major step toward the current design.



Today's Olympic stones follow strict specifications: a maximum circumference of 36 inches, a minimum height of 4.5 inches, and a weight between 38 and 44 pounds. Each stone features a brightly colored handle attached through its center, allowing players to impart the subtle rotation that gives curling its name.

Two types of granite, from one tiny island—What makes a curling stone truly special is the material it's made from. Olympic stones rely on two rare granites found almost nowhere else on Earth — both quarried from Ailsa Craig, a rugged volcanic island off Scotland's Ayrshire coast.

- **Common Green granite** forms the main body of the stone. Its durability allows it to withstand repeated high-impact collisions without chipping.

continued on next page

Journey of a Curling Stone — continued from page 16



- **Blue Hone granite** is used for the stone's base. Its dense, water-resistant structure prevents damage from constant freezing and thawing, preserving the narrow "running band" that actually contacts the ice.

Ailsa Craig itself is less than a square mile in size, but its geological makeup has made it legendary in the curling world. Over the centuries, it has served as a refuge, a lighthouse station, and now a protected wildlife haven — all while supplying the granite that fuels a global sport.

Crafted by Kays of Scotland— Only one company in the world produces Olympic-grade curling stones: Kays of Scotland. With exclusive rights to quarry Ailsa Craig granite, the firm harvests boulders roughly once a decade. Each stone begins as a thick slab cut with diamond-studded wires, then shaped, drilled, assembled, and polished through a meticulous process that blends craftsmanship with engineering.

Kays typically finishes about 40 stones a week, and each Olympic-quality stone carries a price tag approaching \$1,000 — a testament to the precision required to meet international standards.



Why the sweeping matters—Anyone who watched curling during the Games saw the frantic sweeping that follows a sliding stone. This isn't theatrics — it's physics. Sweeping gently warms and smooths the ice, reducing friction and allowing players to fine-tune both the stone's speed and its curved path. In a sport where millimeters can decide a match, that control is everything.

References:

Curling Stones: Olympic Granite, *From Ailsa Craig to Olympic Ice* by Steve Voynick, which originally appeared in *Rock & Gem* magazine.

Thank you to Susan Burch! Her article was first published in the March-April 2026 *Newsletter of the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies*.

Trilobite of the Month: *Olenelloides*

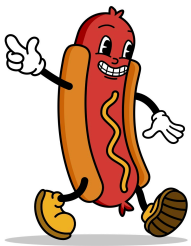
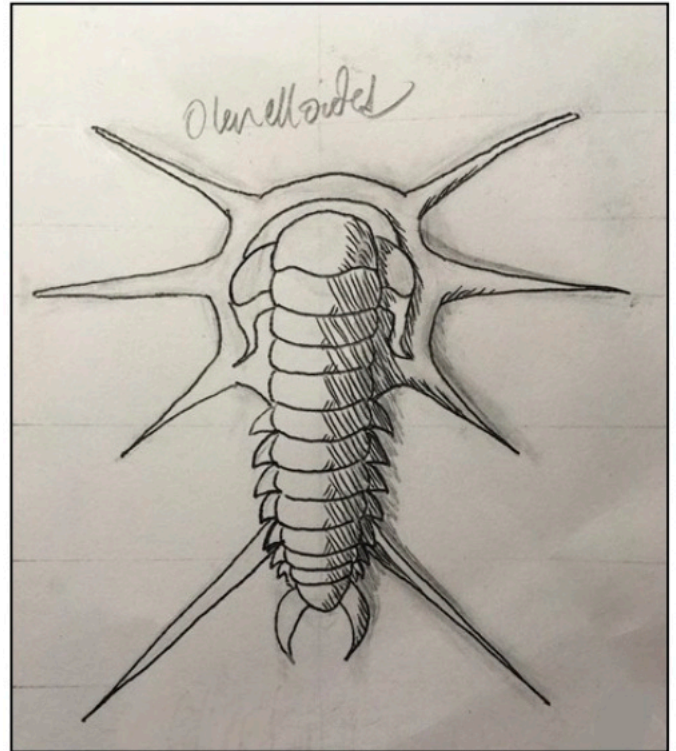
Charlotte Small, Flatirons Mineral Club

Olenelloides is a genus of small Cambrian trilobites. They're exclusively found in north Scotland and generally are about 1 cm in length. Six characteristic spines are located on the cephalon that radiate in a star-like pattern. They are believed to be detritivores and may have had the ability to move very quickly.

Visit <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olenelloides> for more information.

Flatirons Facets Editor's Note: This year, Charlotte's Fossil of the Month Column will feature trilobites, a favorite fossil of most everyone.

From *Flatirons Facets*, March-April 2026.



Hot Links – Editor's Picks

Linda Jaeger, Editor

Below are some hot links you might find interesting. Just click on the link — it will open the web page in your browser.

- **UT Austin researchers discover new dinosaur species in Korea**
<https://www.texasstandard.org/stories/doolysaurus-new-dinosaur-species-korea-ut-austin-texas-dooly/>
- **7-ton meteor that zoomed over multiple states was likely cause of boom heard across Ohio**
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cleveland-meteor-loud-boom-sound/>
- **Watch the Earth split in real time: Stunning footage captures a 2.5-meter fault slip in seconds**
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/03/260327211149.htm>

Upcoming Shows and Events in the RMFMS

If your club has show information that you would like to have listed in the *Rocky Mountain Federation News*, please email the information to the editor (including show flyers) — <LJGRALG@aol.com>. As with many of the other email addresses in the newsletter, you will need to remove the chevrons, < >, and replace the spaces and the "at" with the correct symbol, @.

4/11/26	Gila County Gem & Mineral Society Spring Show & Sell	Bullion Plaza Cultural Center & Museum Lawn, 150 Plaza Circle, Miami, AZ 85539	Beverly Hawkins, gilagem.shows@gmail.com, 928.363.0345
4/18-19/2026	Northwest Arkansas G&M Society	Northwest Arkansas Armed Forces Reserve Center, 6800 SW Minuteman Ave, Bentonville, AR	Cathy Feather, 539.777.7575; nwarockhounds@gmail.com
4/24-26/2026	Wichita Gem & Mineral Society	Cessna Activity Center, 2744 Geoge Washington Blvd, Wichita, KS	Gene Maggard, 316.742.3746; gandpmaggard@gmail.com; https://wichitagemandmineralsociety.org/
4/24-26/2026	Wasatch Gem Society	Bastian Agricultural Center, 2100 W 11400 S, South Jordan, UT	Roberta Chase, 801.541.7569; roberta.chase@outlook.com; https://wasatchgemsociety.com/
5/1-3/2026	McPherson Gem & Mineral Club	4-H Fairgrounds, 710 W Woodside, McPherson, KS	Larry Hackney, 203.247.4300; larryrocks538@gmail.com; www.mgmc.club
5/2-3/2026	Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society	Boulder City Spring Jamboree, 900 Arizona St, Boulder City, NV	Orville Wiemers, sngmsjamboreeshowchair@gmail.com; www.SNGMS.net
5/9/2026	Arizona Fossil Fest	Pinal Geology & Mineral Museum, 351 N Arizona Blvd, Coolidge, AZ	
5/15-17/2026	Cache Rock & Gem Club	Cache County Events Center, 450 South 500 West, Logan, UT	Brett Fannesbeck, crgc.showmanager@gmail.com; cacherockandgemclub.com
5/19-21/2026	Sublette County Rockhounds	Sublette County Fairgrounds, Event Center, 10937 Hwy 189, Big Piney, WY	Jim Gray, 307.260.6442; email jimgray@wyoming.com
5/29-30/2026	Bighorn Basin Rock Show	Park County Fairgrounds, 655 E 5th Street, Powell, WY	https://bighornbasinrockshow.com ; contact Greg Jones, 281.224.2694; cody59ers@wsmsg.org
6/11-15/2026	Friends of Mineralogy Colorado Chapter, 2026 Symposium	Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO	friendsofmineralogycolorado.org/symposium
6/19-21/2026	Southern Teller County Focus Group (STCFG)	Victor Gem & Mineral Show, Victor Elks Lodge No. 367, Victor, CO	STCFG.com
6/19-21/2026	Wyoming State Gem & Mineral Show, hosted by Sublette County Rockhounds	Sublette Co. Fairgrounds Event Center, 10937 Hwy 189, Big Piney, WY	Jim Gray, jimgray@wyoming.com or Mike Schaffer, maschaffer61@gmail.com
9/4-7/2026	Northwest Nebraska Rock Club	Crawford City Park, Crawford, NE	Valerie, 308.430.4404 or Wade, 308.430.1399, wadebeins87@gmail.com

Below are upcoming regional federation shows:

	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southeast Federation
2026	Reno, NV September 18-20	Charleston, WV October 16-18	AFMS/MWF St. Charles, IL May 22-24	Missoula, MT March 20-22	Tulsa, OK July 9-12	Houston, TX November 13-15	
2027			West Bend, WI March 5-7				AFMS/SFMS TBD

RTM

**TULSA
ROCK & GEM
SHOW**

Exchange Center at Expo Square
4145 E 21st St
Tulsa, OK 74114

Also hosting
Rocky Mountain
Federation Convention

**July
10-12,
2026**

- Rocks
- Gems
- Minerals
- Fossils
- Jewelry
- Free Kid Zone
- Demonstrations
- Fluorescent Display
- Collection Displays
- Silent Auction

\$7 Adults
\$12 All Show Pass

Kids 12 and under free
with adult admission

Military and First
Responders free with ID
Scouts free in uniform

trmsok.org

9-6 Fri & Sat
10-5 Sun

Mark Your Calendars & Make Your Plans!

The **RMFMS Convention** is being hosted by the Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society this year, July 10-12. Packets will be mailed soon.

There will be field trips every day of the show. Look for some show "teasers" beginning next month!

Where in the RMFMS is Rocky? — Answers

Linda Jaeger, Editor



We have clubs from 13 states in the RMFMS. Have you been there? Do you recognize the photos from the areas shown this month? **I would love for you to send an awesome photo from your state with a caption and location to print!** RMFMS has amazing country and activities to fill your senses.

Here are the answers for the photos on pages 5, 11, and 15:

- page 5: Devil's Slide, **Utah**
- page 11: Rock Formations, Hueco Tanks State Historic Site, **El Paso County, Texas**
- page 15: Badlands National Park, **South Dakota**

Look for more beautiful locations next month from our member states: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Wyoming.



Gila County Gem & Mineral Society

SPRING SHOW & SELL

Bento Guy Food Truck on site!



Interested in being a vendor?

We offer 8-foot table spaces for \$10 each.
Must be rock/mineral related items.
Tables provided. Vendor to bring chairs, canopies and table covers if desired.

Deadline to Reserve: March 30, 2026
For information/reserve a table:
Beverly Hawkins: gilagem.shows@gmail.com
or 928-363-0345

**Saturday, April 11, 2026
9 A.M.-2 P.M.**

Bullion Plaza Cultural Center & Museum Lawn
150 Plaza Circle, Miami AZ 85539



NORTHWEST ARKANSAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
• Siloam Springs

2026 Spring Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show

Arkansas Rocks !!

Sat. April 18, 9-5
Sun. April 19, 10-4

We're Growing Again!
Several great new attractions this year.

Rock ID Table • Hourly Door Prizes
Bead Dealer • Flint Knapper • Geode Cracker
Silent Auction • Educational Display Cases

"Daisy and DeLois" local food truck, featuring Louisiana and American foods

And always gems, minerals, crystals, fossils, jewelry, home décor, and more fun stuff!

Northwest Arkansas Armed Forces Reserve Center (the Armory)
6800 S.W. Minuteman Ave. Bentonville, AR 72712
(On Highway 102, just North of NWA Airport)

\$5.00 Entry Donation, children under 10 free with an adult

For more information, contact DeLane Cox, delanec3@earthlink.net
Northwest Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society
nwarockhounds@gmail.com



Reminder:

Advertise your Show in as many Free locations as possible!

- Local newspapers
- Current events sections!
- Local TV stations
- Community Calendars
- Other local shows

Advertise in the Rock & Gem Magazine!

Send the information in early so it's published in the magazine as well as online:

www.rockngem.com/showdate-submissions/

Info from CFMS Newsletter, April 2024

Largest Club Sponsored

Gem Mineral Fossil

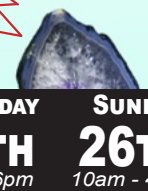
Show in utah!

WASATCH GEM SOCIETY
SALT LAKE CITY

\$3.00 ADULTS
KIDS 12 & UNDER FREE!

APRIL 2026	FRIDAY 24TH 10am - 6pm	SATURDAY 25TH 10am - 6pm	SUNDAY 26TH 10am - 4pm
LOCAL & NATIONAL VENDORS • SHOW CASE DISPLAYS • WHEEL OF FORTUNE DEMONSTRATIONS • DOOR PRIZES			
ROCK BAGS • KIDS TABLE			

BASTIAN AGRICULTURAL CENTER
2100 WEST 11400 SOUTH - SOUTH JORDAN, UTAH
www.wasatchgemsociety.com





Don't Miss It!

Wichita Gem and Mineral Show

"Earth's Hidden Treasures"

April 24, 25 & 26, 2026

Friday
9am-6pm

Saturday
10am-6pm

Sunday
10am-5pm

Featuring dazzling gemstone jewelry, gems, crystals, beads, agates, polished stones, rocks, minerals, meteorites, and fossils.

See how rocks are cut and polished. See how unique jewelry is created using the wonders of nature. Special displays of rocks and minerals from throughout the world.

Dealers * Demonstrations * Exhibits
Gemstone identification, sphere making, cabbing, beading, arrowhead napping, faceting, wire wrapping, silversmithing, and much more.



Cessna Activity Center

**2744 George Washington Blvd
Wichita, KS**



Special Things for Children: Junior rock pile, gem hunt, gem wheel, grab bags, demonstrations and exhibits.

Good food – Rest Area – Free Parking Door Side

For information contact:
www.wgmsks.org,
(316) 742-3746

C O U P O N

Adults: \$5.00, Youth 13-17: \$1.00,
Children 12 and under free with an adult
Proceeds help support a WSU Geology Scholarship.

For information:
316-202-4598, 316-742-3746
www.wgmsks.org

Bring this coupon for
**\$1.00 Off Each
Adult Admission**

\$1 Off **\$1 Off**

C O U P O N

Discount coupons available at www.wgmsks.org

Follow us @Wichitagem

Follow us: Wichita Gem and Mineral Society

THE PINAL GEOLOGY AND MINERAL MUSEUM
AND JOHN CHRISTIAN PRESENT

**ARIZONA
FOSSIL FEST
2026**

SATURDAY, MAY 9
351 N. ARIZONA BLVD, COOLIDGE, AZ
10AM-4PM

**HAVE YOUR FOSSILS IDENTIFIED BY EXPERTS
FREE EVENT!**

BIGHORN BASIN ROCK SHOW

**MAY
29-30
2026**

Fri 1pm-7pm
Sat 9am-5pm

Location:
Park County Fairgrounds
Powell, WY

Admission \$5
Kids 12 & under FREE

Gems • Minerals • Fossils
Kids Activities

For More Information:
www.bighornbasinrockshow.com



FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY COLORADO CHAPTER 2026 SYMPOSIUM:

COLORADO 150

Celebrating 150 Years of Colorado Statehood

Featuring presentations on Colorado Mineralogy, field trips, workshops, mineral auctions, & more!

General Registration Now Open (Field Trips and Workshops will be announced in early 2026; register now for priority field trip and workshop sign up)

REGISTER HERE:



June 11th - 15th, 2026
at Colorado School of Mines in Golden, CO

friendsofmineralogycolorado.org/symposium

Sublette County Rockhounds 

hosting the annual

Wyoming State Mineral & Gem Society

Gem & Mineral Show

Our Club's

10th ANNIVERSARY

June 19-21, 2026

Friday & Saturday, 9am - 5pm

Sunday, 9am - 3pm

Sublette Co. Fairgrounds
Event Center, 10937 Hwy 189
Big Piney, Wyoming

Vendors Demonstrators Exhibits Presentations
Field Trips Kid's Activities Raffles
Door Prizes Silent Auction & MORE!

Food Concessions & Camping On-site

Contact: Jim Gray jimgray@wyoming.com or Mike Schaffer maschaffer61@gmail.com

VICTOR GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

JUNE 19-21, 2026

FREE ADMISSION

VISIT STCFG.COM FOR DETAILS VICTOR, COLORADO

Join Us In Downtown Victor, Colorado, City of Gold Mines
Fri/Sat 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

COLORADO MINERALS, GEMS, HAND CRAFTED JEWELRY,
FOSSILS, ROUGH SLABS, SPECIMENS, CABOCHONS, GEODES

GOLD & GEM PANNING

STCFG.COM

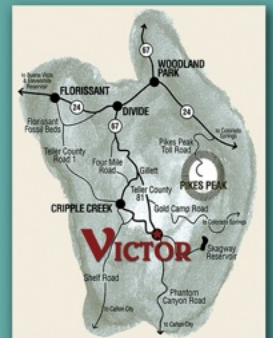
GEM SHOW SPONSORS



VICTOR ELKS
LODGE No 367



CRIPPLE CREEK & VICTOR



2025-2026 Executive Committee – *composed of the Officers & the State Directors*

Officers:

President	Jim Gray	<jimgray at wyoming.com>
Vice President	Steve Kaminski	<scsckamin at gmail.com>
Secretary	Liz Thomas	<mygemsrock at gmail.com>
Treasurer	Gene Maggard	<gandpmaggard at gmail.com>
Historian	Cinda Kunkler	<cccrocks25 at gmail.com>
Past President	Bob Regner	<Rnregner at aol.com>
Past President	Richard Jaeger	<RjgrSci at aol.com>

State Directors:

AZ/NV	Jodi Brewster	<jodibrewster66 at gmail.com>
CO	Steve Bohannon, MD	<bohannon_steve at yahoo.com>
KS	Larry Beck	<Lkbeckfam at gmail.com>
ND/SD/NE	Lori Loomis	<sdnestatedirector at gmail.com>
NM/TX	Donna Regner	<Dwanna7 at aol.com>
OK/AR	Roberta Wagle	<waglemom at gmail.com>
UT	Daniel Ahlemann	<ahlemann.rockandgemclub at gmail.com>
WY	Leane Gray	<lgray at wyoming.com>

Please note: All email addresses are enclosed in chevrons, < >, and the @ symbol has been replaced by the word "at" with a space before and after the word. This is to prevent bots from picking up our email addresses. You will need to remove the chevrons and replace the word "at" and the two spaces with the @ symbol to have the correct email.

2025-2026 Committee Chairs

ACROY (AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year)	Chris Whitney-Smith	<ask.chrisws at yahoo.com>
All American Club	Roberta Wagle	<waglemom at gmail.com>
BEAC (Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee) & Bulletin Editors Contest	Linda Jaeger	<LJGRALG at aol.com>
Boundaries	DeLane Cox	<delanec3 at earthlink.net>
Convention Advisor	Liz Thomas	<mygemsrock at gmail.com>
Credentials	Roberta Wagle	<waglemom at yahoo.com>
Directory	Lori Loomis	<riggsoldchap at yahoo.com>
Editor of Newsletter	Linda Jaeger	<LJGRALG at aol.com>
Finance	Wayne Cox	<WayneC3 at earthlink.net>
Fluorescent Tech	Brian Walko	<bwalko at earthextractions.com>
Fossils Tech	Mike Nelson	<csrockguy at yahoo.com>
Gold Pan Award	Richard Jaeger	<RjgrSci at aol.com>
Insurance	Gene Maggard	<gandpmaggard at gmail.com>
International Relations	Mike Nelson	<csrockguy at yahoo.com>
Juniors Program	Michelle Cauley	<michelle.cauley at dakotacollege.edu>
Lapidary Tech		
Long Range Planning	Liz Thomas	<mygemsrock at gmail.com>
Long Range Planning	Richard Jaeger	<RjgrSci at aol.com>
Long Range Planning	Judy Beck, chair	<Lkbeckfam at gmail.com>
Mineralogical Tech	Mike Nelson	<csrockguy at yahoo.com>
Name Badges	Richard Jaeger	<RjgrSci at aol.com>
New Program Contest	Gene Maggard	<gandpmaggard at gmail.com>
Nominating Committee	Bob Regner	<Rnregner at aol.com>
Nominating Committee	Liz Thomas	<mygemsrock at gmail.com>
Nominating Committee	Jim Gray	<jimgray at wyoming.com>

continued on next page

2025-2026 Committee Chairs – *continued*

Parliamentarian	Gene Maggard	<gandpmaggard at gmail.com>
PLAC - AZ	Chuck Greenhawt	<cegcag at gmail.com>
PLAC - CO		<>
PLAC - KS	Mike Nelson	<csrockguy at yahoo.com>
PLAC - NM/TX		
PLAC - OK/AR		<>
PLAC - ND/SD/NE	Lori Loomis	<sdnestatedirector at gmail.com>
PLAC - UT/NV		<>
PLAC - WY	Greg Jones	<wyojones at wyjones.com >
President's Hat	all past presidents	
Program Library	Gene & Peggy Maggard	<gandpmaggard at gmail.com>
Public Relations	DeLane Cox	<delanec3 at earthlink.net>
Resolutions		
Ribbons	Jenelle Hopkins	<Jhopk67328 at aol.com>
Safety	Jodi Brewster	<rmfmssafety2024@gmail.com>
Scholarship Committee	Richard Jaeger	<RjgrSci at aol.com>
Stationery/Trophies	Ben Thomas	<myretirementrocks at gmail.com>
Supplies	Lori Loomis	<sdnestatedirector at gmail.com>
Uniform Rules	Lee Whitebay	<lwhiteba at gmail.com>
Uniform Rules	Leon Reeder	<leonreeder47 at yahoo.com>
Uniform Rules	Les Presmyk	<presmyk at cox.net>
Webmaster	Tyler Jacobsen	<tyler@cacherockandgemclub.com>
Website Contest	Leane Gray	<Lgray at wyoming.com>

Please note: All email addresses are enclosed in chevrons, < >, and the @ symbol has been replaced by the word "at" with a space before and after the word. This is to prevent bots from picking up our email addresses. You will need to remove the chevrons and replace the word "at" and the two spaces with the @ symbol to have the correct email.



RMFMS Purpose & Policies – *Excerpts from 2023 Directory (Revised)*

- To bring about a closer association of the Earth Science Groups in the Rocky Mountain region.
- To increase and disseminate knowledge about minerals and other geologic materials.
- To encourage mineral study, collecting, and fashioning as a HOBBY.
- To sponsor local organizations interested in similar purposes.
- To encourage all clubs to publish bulletins and newsletters.
- To continue building up and promoting the use of the Federation Library of slide programs, videos, CDs, and DVDs to each member club.
- To distribute information and suggestions on the preparation and arrangement of specimens and materials for exhibit and display.
- To provide information and assistance to clubs holding Gem and Mineral Shows.
- To encourage clubs to support the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Scholarship Foundation Fund.

AFMS Code of Ethics

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind—fences, signs, buildings.
- I will leave all gates as found. I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material—matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes, which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

- To promote the concept that all members of all clubs are members of the RMFMS and the AFMS, and to encourage individual members and clubs to take responsibility for asking questions or making known that help is needed. To encourage more contacts between those working at the Federation level, between clubs, and between club members.
- To keep the members informed of problems and activities regarding the use of Public Lands.
- To continue to support Federation-sponsored programs.

The Rocky Mountain Federation is composed of a membership of approximately 14,000 members in the following states: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming.

The work of the Federation is directed by the Executive Committee, composed of: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, State Directors, and the two immediate Past-Presidents.

Reminder — next RMF Newsletter is the April 2026 issue. Deadline for articles is March 15, 2026.

- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land Management, or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule," will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public image of rockhounds everywhere.

